Supply of LPG in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh

2481. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of supply of LPG in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, with number of connections and agencies catering LPG supply; and

(b) what measures are being taken to improve LPG supply in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 1.1.2002, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 55 LPG distributorships exclusively in rural category and 23 in urban rural category in the State of Andhra Pradesh. These agencies were serving 12.71 lakh customers as on 1.1.2002.

OMCs have planned to set up 260 more LPG distributorships in rural category under various marketing plans in the State of Andhra Pradesh to increase the necessary infrastructure for adequate supply of LPG in rural areas. Further, LPG distributors are also allowed to extend their trading area by 30 Kms. in rural areas to cater to the demand of rural customers.

Crude Pumping Station at Paradip

2482. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are deferring the implementation of Paradip Oil Refinery Project till 2004;

(b) whether the project would become a victim of the vicious circle of cost and time overruns and hence the threat of gradual withdrawal of the project;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the IOC is planning to set up a Rs. 600/- crore crude pumping station at Paradip; and